



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 102 (April-May 2013) 'FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY'

<http://www.steelscreek.org.au/>

for current activity photos and more commentary

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### ***Steels Creek Community Centre Committee Report***

Another busy few months have passed and we are pleased to see the increase in use of the Community Centre with several weeks of over 100 people attending events and meetings - keep it up. There are plenty of future events coming, a family fun day and a book launch to name a few. If you have ideas for an event please let us know and we will see what can be arranged.

The landscaping of the grounds is due to start shortly and hopefully will be completed before the onslaught of winter.

All Members and Visitors to the community Centre **Must** sign the attendance registrar at each visit - And pay a \$2 contribution (unless otherwise advised) which goes toward the running costs of the Centre

Please note, we are self funded and **do not** receive any Council income towards the running costs of the centre

### ***Steels Creek Tennis & Social Club Happenings***

**SCTC Open Day:** Stop by the courts on Sunday afternoon, 14 April for a snag and a hit. As usual, we'll open the courts and have a BBQ before the start of the next Saturday Comps season. We'll fire up the barbie about 12 noon for free sausages.

**Saturday Tennis:** Congratulations to Alby's team for capturing the premiership of Open Sets 10 for this season. Saturday competitions are starting again on April 20. Come and show your support from 1pm on Saturdays.

**Social Tennis:** Whether a hot or cool evening, come and enjoy the friendly tennis on Thursday nights. (Mondays not as popular right now, so we'll give that a miss for a while.)

**Other regular events:** Tuesday afternoon coaching for kids from 3:45 til 6pm - it's a big hit, pun intended. Friday morning Ladies coaching

Web site: [www.yarraglen.com/SCTC/](http://www.yarraglen.com/SCTC/)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SteelsCreekTennisClub](https://www.facebook.com/SteelsCreekTennisClub)

Ed Bartosh, Secretary



### **Half Price Private Tennis Lessons At SCTC**

During the school holidays on Tuesday the 9 of April I will be offering HALF PRICE Private tennis lessons:

- Lessons available from 9.30 am
- All students interested in fast tracking their tennis game
- Anyone interested in improving their game in a one-on-one situation with a tennis coach
- Adults wanting to get back into playing again, this is a great way to fast track the revival
- process
- Any first time players wishing to get themselves started in the sport

Lessons will be just \$15 dollars for a half hour lesson. Call to book yourself a spot, first in first served!

Lee Patrick, SCTC Coach 0412 402 265

### ***Daylight Savings Time Ends on Sunday April 7***

Don't forget to turn back your clock for the end of Daylight Savings Time on the early hours of Sunday, 7 April. Enjoy the extra hour's sleep!

**Also don't forget to change your smoke alarm batteries**



## **ANZAC Day Remembrance in Yarra Glen**

The Yarra Glen RSL is sponsoring a march and service on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> to commemorate ANZAC Day. The march will start at 10:15am at the Yarra Glen Police Station on King Street and proceed to the Memorial Hall. Following the march, there will be a commemorative service at the Memorial Hall. Children from the local schools will address what ANZAC Day means and why it is important to them. Light refreshments will be available in the Hall following the service.

Members of the RSL will be at Ritchies Yarra Glen IGA on three Thursdays prior to ANZAC Day for the annual ANZAC Appeal. There are 4 new items in the Appeal stock this year. Donations for pins support the RSL Welfare Fund. As always, we appreciate your generous support.

Web site: [www.yarraglen.com/RSL/](http://www.yarraglen.com/RSL/)



**Ed Bartosh, Secretary**

## **Croquet Day 2013**

Well it has been a few years since we have had Croquet at **Kilravock**. Bill, the head groundsman, has been adamant that the Lawns must fully recover and did, despite his better judgement, allow us to play on them. Marred only by a few kangaroo and wombat scrapings, they were in reasonable order considering the dry. This was the eighth time croquet had been played, as some years we had two tournaments...

In a day of variable weather, cloud wind and sun but no rain some thirty people gathered to enjoy the day and the fine afternoon tea beautifully prepared by **Judith and Alexandra**. Of the thirty, 24 took to the lawns to wield their mallets

The team **Barbutto** won the day from the **Bartosh/Taylor** team; **Bette Barbutto** having honed her game playing indoors at Watervale Village. **Betty Taylor** won the best outfit, just pipping the smartly dressed **Ed Bartosh**

**Albie Leckie** did not have much luck on calling for someone to pickup his balls, apparently **Gwen** how has been doing it for years needed a rest, not any takers and this had an effect on his performance.

Great to see new comers to the day **Denise and Patrick McCann** along and also to see **Pam Verhoeven** and **Nola Matthews** moving around more easily after recovering from their accidents.

The after game revelries continued well into the evening.



**Andrew Chapman**

## **Clamberers**

Clamberers undertake monthly walks in and around the Steels Creek area and elsewhere, from April to November each year. Walks are usually held on the last Sunday of each month during that time. Our walks program for the rest of 2013 is available on request. Walks are generally of a moderate level of physical challenge, and there is usually ample opportunity to stop along the way to examine items of interest that are often found. If you would like to receive information about these walks but have not been doing so, please register your details by emailing (or telephoning) **David or Robyn Allan** at [drallan@wideband.net.au](mailto:drallan@wideband.net.au), telephones 5965 2556 and 0413 396 296.

## **SC4 Film Club**

Super Meal and jolly good company from 6pm on. Films starts 7.30pm.

**Here is an Idea.** If you just wish to have a delicious 3 course meal with good company and don't want to stay for the film, no problem, at \$7 a head you canna get better value than that

Screening on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April: **Hatari** (1962).

A group of men trap wild animals in Africa and sell them to zoos. Will the arrival of a female wildlife photographer change their ways? Stars: John Wayne, Elsa Martinelli, and Hardy Krüger. More from [IMDB](#) click on this for more information.

Screening On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May: **Brassed Off**

The coal mine in a northern English village may be closing, which would also mean the end of the miners' brass band. Stars: Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald, Ewan McGregor. More from [IMDB](#)

## **Hoogies Continues its Support**

The new owner, **Peter England**, has agreed to continue the long standing sponsorship by Hoogies of the Jolly Thing. We are grateful for this support and in return remind members of our community that they should consider buying their hardware and rural products from Hoogies. All the staff are very friendly and obliging and if they don't have what you need can order it in for you.

Remember "**Shop Local and keep our Local Shops**".

## **Food Writers Report**

### **Food for Polo and Croquet**

We have been doing a little outdoor entertaining over the last couple of weeks, so I thought I'd fill you in on a few of the "hand me rounds" when you have no way of heating food as we did at the polo. Mini pastry cups filled with curried egg mix grated hard boiled eggs, mayonnaise, curry powder, cream, finely chopped spring onions –yum!

Well cooked frittata, eggs, cooked carrots, beans, leeks, vegies cooled and chopped, mix with parsley and mixed dried herbs 12 eggs whisked with a little milk – when cooked and cooled cut into bit size cubes and top with home made chutney. Smoked salmon sandwiches, salmon instead of butter and baby capers, cut crusts off. Mini koflers served with tzaziki and added mint. Spicy meat ball, served in mini buns – home made tomato sauce. Chicken skewers served with plum sauce. No one noticed nothing hot!

At the Croquet, a little easier some of the above served at the Polo, with home made party pies, mini sausage rolls served with home made chutney of ketchup, Alexandra's famous chicken sandwiches, poached chicken chopped with fine diced celery, pears drained and chopped, Japanese mayonnaise, very fine parsley. Mini tomato tarts, with anchovies and cheese, simply slice up puff pastry into 60mm squares, one slice of fontina cheese, a single slice of tomato and one white anchovy, pepper and pop into oven for 15 minutes – delicious..

Just make sure you have every thing organized so you get to enjoy the guests and the activities. **Judith Augustine.**

### **The Memorial**

The carved timber memorial is now in place and already a great hit with the kids as you can see by the photo of Henry and his friend Olivia giving it a big hug.

The sculptor Rob Bast has done a great job in capturing the aspirations of the children in the thoughtful reflection shown in their faces.

It is indeed a fitting memorial to those who lost their lives on that Day.

They will not be forgotten.



### **What's In A Name.**

Where did the name for your property come from?

Ours came from Scotland, my sister had traced our family back to 1280 descendants from the Laird of Kilravock, hence our property name, **Kilravock** loosely translated from its Gaelic origins It means white fortified house of worship on a hill. Our adjoining neighbours to the North have **Echo Vale**, no surprises why. it does have a strong echo from several points, our other neighbours have a simple **916**, inherited from the Mullen's who told friends there place was 9.16 kms along the Steels Creek Rd. Pat And Joe owe their properties name to John Wayne, Pat is a great fan and **White of Morn** is from a film set in Ireland which stared John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara

Let me know where your name came from

### **Sustainable Gardening Workshops**

Join garden experts from Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) and learn how to create and maintain sustainable gardens throughout the year.

SGA will be running 6 workshops under the auspice of the Dixons Creek Landcare Group. All workshops will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month and will run for approx 2-3 hours, depending on the workshop, followed by a light lunch.

#### **Workshop #1.**

- The first workshop will be on soil improvement and preparation.
- Creating a healthy garden bed. - Everyone is encouraged to bring a soil sample from their gardens for analysis.
- Easy and alternate methods of composting and worm farming. Home made compost and liquid worm-wee are the unheralded heroes of all sustainable gardens!!

**Date:** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April (so pop this date in your diary)

**Venue:** Dixons Creek Pavilion, Melba Highway, Dixons Creek

**Time:** 9.45am for a 10.00am start- Finish: 1.00pm (following by a light lunch).

**Cost:** Free – The whole series of workshops is being generously sponsored by the Helen Macpherson Trust Fund.

**Bookings essential:** Phone **Yvonne Hood** on 5965 2425 or email [dcreekgarden@gmail.com](mailto:dcreekgarden@gmail.com)

## **Steels Creek Community Walking Track**

### **Development Master Plan**

One of the community recovery projects that were funded in our area following the "Black Saturday" bushfires, was the multi-purpose walking track, now completed, from the southern end of Steels Creek Road in Yarra Glen to the Steels Creek Community Centre; a total of 6.5 km. The Steels Creek Association has developed an interim "Master Plan" for the on-going improvement and extension of this track for the recreational benefit and recovery of the people of Steels Creek and Yarra Glen. This plan will be implemented over time as funds become available.

The overall aim of the Association is to improve the quality of the landscape and environment of Steels Creek Road and track as an important element in the on-going recovery of the community. The Yarra Ranges Council is responsible for management of the road, subject to policies of Vic. Roads. It is, therefore, necessary to work closely with Council on any developments that take place.

Almost the entire length of Steels Creek Road was burned on Black Saturday and over the last four years many dead and dangerous trees have been removed; blackberries have been sprayed and the usual roadside slashing has been done at the start of each summer. Otherwise the road has essentially looked after itself. There are still many dead trees; branches lying in long grass; onion weed is increasing dramatically; and there is a general impression of lack of interest in road verge management to improve the otherwise attractive landscape of Steels Creek Road. Many people feel neglected and depressed at what they see.



### **The Master Plan**

There are 6 projects included in this master plan. Each can be funded and completed independently. They combine to provide a community resource ensuring an environmental and community asset greatly improving our quality of life and pride in place.

- 1. The purchase and installation of seats and tables at specific locations to improve the experience of a walk along the track.
- 2. The purchase; planting; and naming of trees and shrubs to improve the amenity of the track and create an interesting landscape.
- 3. The production and installation of interpretive signage, particularly historical and environmental features to enhance the experience of the walk and learn about the local environment.
- 4. Develop, with the Council, a management and maintenance plan to ensure the on-going quality of the track and road verges.
- 5. Plan and extend the network of walking tracks in Steels Creek valley to provide better community access; recreational opportunities; and increase the diversity of walking experiences .
- 6. Establish a team of local residents to oversee this master plan and promote the maintenance of a high quality roadside experience for the community.

**Malcolm Calder**

### **Shortest Day Lunch**

An early note about the Shortest Day Lunch. Always a great way to brighten up the Winter blues  
This year it is on 22 and 23 June 10:00am – 5:00pm each day. Menu details will soon be on

[www.shortestlunch.com.au](http://www.shortestlunch.com.au)

**Simon Pierce**

## ***Launch of Black Saturday at Steels Creek, 11 May***

I'm delighted that on 11 May we'll be able to gather to launch **Black Saturday at Steels Creek**, which tells the story of the 2009 bushfire and what it did to the people and the place of Steels Creek. The book is the second of the three planned outcomes of the 'Victorian Bushfire Project', a collaboration between historians **Tom Griffiths**, **Christine Hansen**, film-maker **Moira Fahy** and myself. As you'll recall, Tom and Christine's *Living with Fire* book was launched at Steels Creek last year and Moira's film will be finished soon. *Living with Fire* looked at the natural and human history of Steels Creek as a whole, and Moira's film will examine the fire's effects on three families. My book will deal with the day of the fire, starting with a portrait of Steels Creek before the fire, describing the experience of the fire and looking at the ways the disaster affected the community. As many of you will know (because I interviewed you or corresponded with you), *Black Saturday at Steels Creek* is based on a close relationship with the people of the valley. As I've been saying: 'your story; my book'.

The launch, as is traditional with books, is an opportunity to celebrate its appearance, and for the author to thank all of those who contributed to it by sharing their memories of the fire, lending newspaper cuttings, photographs or even film, and generally helping by giving their time, energy and emotion to make the book possible. One of the themes of the book is that Steels Creek's resilience in and especially after the fire was due in large part to its coherence as a community. One of the lessons of the book is that 'communities strong before disaster are stronger after it'. That gives us an even better reason to celebrate this book as a community, and it's fitting that the launch will be held during the market at the Community Centre on 11 May. *Black Saturday at Steels Creek* will be launched by the prize-winning local journalist, **Kath Gannaway**, well known as a friend of Steels Creek through her work as a reporter on the *Mountain Views Mail* newspaper. The book includes a foreword by the editor of *The Jolly Thing*, **Andrew Chapman**, and photographs of and by local people. It is being published by the well-regarded independent Melbourne publisher, Scribe. Advance copies sent out for review have already garnered positive reviews, but the most important test of the book will be how it is read and received by the people of Steels Creek. I look forward to seeing you at the launch on 11 May!

**Prof. Peter Stanley** University of NSW, Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy

## ***Steels Creek Stories, Book Launch.***

Peter Stanley's book **Black Saturday at Steels Creek** is to be launched by our good friend Kath Gannaway at noon on Saturday, 11 May. Everyone in Steels Creek and neighbouring areas is warmly invited to share in this occasion.

. In his book **Peter Stanley** focuses on Black Saturday itself through interviews with residents and with the authorities who had the task of fighting the fires and providing protection to the community. He then looks into the processes of recovery. Some people have been wondering why, having given a Steels Creek Stories Project interview, their story didn't appear in *Living with Fire*. Perhaps it's here in **Black Saturday at Steels Creek**.

Together, these books tell the moving stories of an Australian rural community that lives with the knowledge that bushfires can and do occur. It could be a community in the Otways, the Grampians, the High Country or East Gippsland; or in any State or Territory. The experience is an Australian one and has relevance to all families and communities as well as planners, fire managers and governments

Please come to the launch to help us celebrate the Steels Creek Stories Project. Share with us in honouring those who died and those who still suffer from trauma. Our stories will not only help us all better understand the nature of bushfires but will also help make for safer communities everywhere.

**Where:** Steels Creek Community Centre, 699 Steels Creek Road.

**When:** Saturday, 11 May, 11am – 1pm, actual launch at noon.

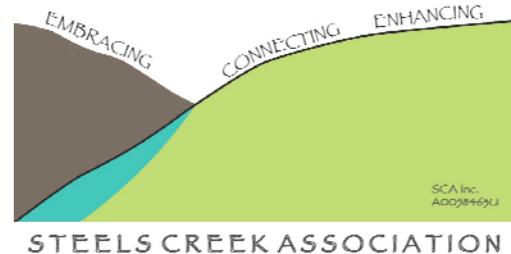
Finger food will be served and books will be available for purchase

Residents of Steels Creek can obtain a free copy of the book (one per household) by forwarding me their name and address **before Friday, 3 May**.

**Malcolm Calder** Mail, 375 Pinnacle Lane, Steels Creek, 3775. email [acacias@bigpond.net.au](mailto:acacias@bigpond.net.au)

## SCA Update

As promised, there is lots more to share with you in this edition of the Jolly Thing.



1. We're very pleased to welcome our first **26 new members** of SCA Inc.! We thank you for your support and look forward to your involvement.

Membership is open to all residents in Steels Creek and immediately-neighbouring communities. Our aim is to be an inclusive, representative body and our purpose is to facilitate the safety, wellbeing, sense of connectedness, healing and advancement of our community. We are in the process of adopting a version of the new model rules for Associations, which will do away with the bureaucratic need for applicants to be nominated and seconded by a committee member. Once that's processed, we will make the amended membership application form more freely available. For now, if you'd like to join us (and we hope you do!), you can request a form and/or more information via the project manager (contact details below).

Committee meetings are generally held at the Community Centre from 7pm on the first Monday of each month. Members are welcome to attend.

(Note: due to Easter, the April meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup>.)

2. SCA, as part of our community capacity-building program, has negotiated a discount offer with **Coates Hire Lilydale – 20% off** all their items for hire until 31 December this year (to be reviewed for extension at that point, depending on take-up). This will hopefully assist not only individuals with their property recovery and rebuilding efforts, but will also make working bees more effective and affordable. This offer is available to any property owner in the **3775 postcode zone, plus Chum Creek**. The offer is redeemable at Coates Hire (447 Maroondah Hwy, Lilydale) on presentation of a specially-created discount card, which will be posted to everyone in this area shortly. Alternatively and in the meantime, you can show a driver's licence or other official document (e.g. rates notice).

3. A new date for your diary: **Saturday 27 April, 10.30 – 2pm, Family Fun!** With very generous support from Coates Hire Lilydale, and assistance from the VBAF funding, we are hosting an event with something for everyone, at the Steels Creek Community Centre. BBQ sausage sizzle, tool/equipment demonstrations, live music and entertainment and of course kicking it off with our local growers/makers mini-market at 10. A flyer with all the info will be posted along with the discount card. This will be a great chance to catch up with neighbours new and old, learn something, relax and have fun. We hope to see you there!

4. **Steels Creek-Yarra Glen track enhancement.** At the committee's meeting in February, members decided to submit an application for funding made available through the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), focused on community resilience and wellness in bushfire-affected areas, as an opportunity to act on the desire expressed by many in last year's community consultations to enhance the amenity of the track. The application was due at the end of February and, headed up by SCA's secretary, Joanne Spears, with assistance from the project manager, was submitted on time for consideration in April. The application was for the establishment of four 'touch-points' along the track – areas with a couple of bench seats, possibly some interpretive signage, and beautified with some planting – that will give users of the track somewhere to rest, take in the view, and meet/chat with fellow users. In canvassing support from the community, members of the committee found it to be well supported and proceeded with the application on this basis. Should the grant application be approved, funding will be received in June, with a 12-month timeframe for completion of proposed works.

5. Our campaign for **improved mobile telecommunications** took another step forward when Shadow Minister for Communications, **Malcolm Turnbull**, visited us along with our Federal Member for Casey, Tony Smith, at the tennis club, followed by afternoon tea at SCCC, on 7 March. Thank you to the 30-or-so locals who attended. It was a strong showing for our small community, and a great opportunity for our needs to be heard and to learn some more about what options may be available.

6. Thanks go to those of you who completed our survey to help us schedule our program of VBAF-funded activities. We hope to let you know shortly about the weekly **wellbeing classes, first aid training, chainsaw training and fencing workshops** that we are organising to run over the next three months.

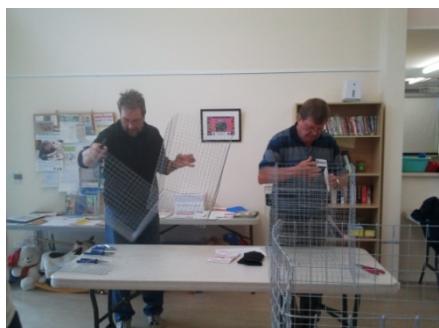
7. Our first in a series of 5 seminars on **post-traumatic stress**, presented by psychologist and trauma expert Michael Burge, was run on 27 March. The session was well attended and feedback indicated that it did deliver what was intended – for this session, an overview of PTS. The following sessions – on **the last Wednesday of each month up to and including July**, and still open to everyone, no matter if you didn't attend the first – will delve more deeply into the condition and what can be done to restore wellbeing. The session was recorded, so if you'd like access to the audio recording (as an mp3 electronic file only), please contact the project manager.

Project manager, Eva Matthews, [projectmanager.sca3775@gmail.com](mailto:projectmanager.sca3775@gmail.com), 0419 116 438 PO Box 298 Yarra Glen 3775.

## *Steels Creek Landcare Group*



In February, a **Social Meeting** was held. It was great to see so many members come along. An excellent 3 course dinner prepared by Chef Angie, friendly conversation and some great ideas for workshops during the year made the night a 'must repeat' event. Common issues haunt members - rabbits, foxes and weeds.



An **Indian Myna workshop** provided information about a serious environmental pest moving into the Steels Creek area. The Yarra Indian Myna Action Group gave a talk about the challenges in halting the invasion of these birds which take over the habitat of our native birds. Sightings have been seen the length of SC road in increasing numbers. Thanks to Northern Yarra Landcare Network for the generous subsidy given to Landcare members buying traps and kits. To buy a trap or kit to make, please contact YIMAG at

<http://www.yimag.org.au/>

Following the high interest in **Microbats** at the AGM, we have been given the opportunity to help with the important work of counting bats in the local area in April. Can't wait to hear how the night goes and how many bats are out there.

**Up-coming events:** In May, a **RABBIT WORKSHOP** will be held with information about trapping, safe use & subsidies towards the cost of Pindone to members.

**WEED MANAGEMENT** is in the pipeline for July. Information will be sent out closer to the events.

**Turnley**



<http://www.abc.net.au/radiounational/programs/360/give-a-bat-a-bad-name/3028508>

## *A New Book Club*

A new Book Club has started in Yarra Glen with Healesville & District U3A.

It is specifically for the over 55s and is held each month, on the 3rd Monday from 10 am - 11.30 am.

We meet in the Community Meeting Room at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, so it is really easy to get to. We would love to have some more members to discuss the books supplied to us by Eastern Regional Libraries.

A special & limited discounted joining fee of only \$20 (normally \$40) applies to new members who join now within the 3775 postcode.

Please contact Joan Barlow on 5962 5083 or [bjoanie001@gmail.com](mailto:bjoanie001@gmail.com) for further details if you are interested in joining us.

Registration forms are also available from the Community Reading Room at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall on Mon/Wed/Thurs, 11 am to 5 pm.

**Joan Barlow**

## **Yarra Glen Art Show Report**

The 2013 Yarra Glen Art Show was held in the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall over the Labour Day long weekend. Again it was a very successful event, over 3000 visitors and a 23% sale of art works. It is now well established as one of the major events of Yarra Glen. The Show has grown over the last 12 years to a 500 item offering in the refurbished Memorial Hall and is a real example of "From Little Thing, Big Things Grow"

The Show's Co-ordinator, **Morgan Calder** of Acme et al said:

"Over the years there have been several venues outside Yarra Glen who have generously hosted the Show. First it moved from the Point Pleasant garden to the barn in Yering Station, then it moved to the conference rooms of Balgownie estate, and for the previous two years at the Alowyn Gardens – again in a marquee. 2013 saw it back in the heart of Yarra Glen and with a much greater involvement by the traders and people of Yarra Glen – did you see the Grand Hotel decked out in colourful scarves, the stick folly on the lawn in front of IGA, and the flowers spread around the area. There were local artists plying their art and craft in various locations around town over the four days of the Show. Our aim was to involve the community and businesses of Yarra Glen"

The Yarra Glen Art Show will in future be held biennially, every second year, giving both organisers and artists more time to maintain an event of high quality.

## **Stitchers**

Last month the Stitchers held a very successful **afternoon tea** to thank Jeanette McCrae for all she has done for our community and to present her with a patchwork quilt made by members of the group. We look forward to her ongoing friendship with both our group and our community.

**On Tues 9 April the Stitchers are joining with the Garden Club** for a combined garden visit/craft display in Mt Evelyn. It should be a wonderful day, so come along even if you are not a member of either group. Meet 9.30am at McKenzie Reserve. Further details Jill 9730 1960

.This year, Stitchers will be holding their annual **Biggest Afternoon Tea**, a fundraiser for the Cancer Council, on Tues 21 May at SC3 from 1.30-3.30pm. Entry, including homemade afternoon tea, \$7.50. Do please come along and support this very worthy and enjoyable event.



Jane Calder

## **Garden Club**

See Stitchers item above. The May outing will be to another lovely garden, this time in Seville.

## **Weather Report**

Up until the 25 February we were on track to have our second driest summer period since 1976. December's rainfall was just over half the average & with only 6.3 mm in January, it was looking pretty grim, but all that changed, when between 26 & 28 Feb. we had 60 mm. It was a pretty hot summer also with both Melbourne & Coldstream 3 degrees above the daily maximum average for February. In early March Melbourne set a new record, for any month, with 9 consecutive days above 30 degrees. Coldstream had 10 consecutive days above 30 with the last 6 of those above 35 degrees.

Barry Sheffield

## **Rainfall Report - to 28th March 2013**

Station	February 2013 (mm)	March 2013 (to 29th) (mm)	2015 Year to Date (mm to 29th March)	Total to corresponding date in 2012 (mm)
'Blackwood Hill' Pinnacle Lane	89.2	48.5	145.2	167.4
'Kilvarock' Adams Lane	64.0	49	115	174.0
'Highlea' Dixons Creek	84.9	58.6	151	179.4
'Newera' Brennan Avenue	81.5	48.5	130	149.8
'Wandearah' Japonica Drive, Yarra Glen	60.9	39.4	126.6	178.7

Rainfall from the Dixons Creek Station for the month was 98.4 mm, year to date 153.0 mm, this time last year 165.6 mm

## *The Jolly Thing Delivery*

1. By e-mail. If you do not already subscribe to this service, please forward your e-mail address to [thejollything@steelscreek.org.au](mailto:thejollything@steelscreek.org.au) and it will be included in the e-mail distribution list.
2. Pick up a free copy at the Yarra Glen Post Office, the Yarra Glen IGA or the Yarra Glen News agent in the first week in the month of publication. (February; April; June; August; October; December.)
3. By Post. For an annual subscription of \$6 we will post to you a copy in the week of publication. For this option please forward a \$6 cheque and your full postal address to the following address:-  
Malcolm Calder, c/o the Steels Creek Community Centre, P.O. Box 291, Yarra Glen VIC 3775
4. By the World Wide Web. You can download T.J.T. from the web soon after the start of the month of publication. All editions are available from August 2003. The address is [www.steelscreek.org.au](http://www.steelscreek.org.au)

Thank you for your support of "*The Jolly Thing*" and the Steels Creek Community. We look forward to your continuing involvement.  
**Malcolm Calder**

### *Every one has a story*

Why not share it with the Jolly Thing readers, be it sad, serious or humorous: local or not. Jot it down and send it to the editor. You could be the winner of the sixth **Chris Mullen** award for literary excellence.

### *Email Addresses - New and Updated*

Want receive the Jolly Thing by email? Let me know your email address and it will arrive as by magic.  
**Changed your email? Send me your new one.**

Do you want to be kept up on Local Steels Creek happenings, events and offerings? Let me know and I will put you on the **Grape Vine** so you don't miss out.      **Andrew Chapman** [andrewchapman44@bigpond.com](mailto:andrewchapman44@bigpond.com)

APRIL 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Women's Group	2 Stitchers	3	4 Art Social Tennis	5	6
7 <i>Daylight Saving Time ends</i>	8 <b>Recycle</b>	9 Stitchers Garden Outing	10	11 Art Social Tennis	12	13 Market
14 YG&DHS SCTC Open BBQ	15 <i>Book Group Re P.7 JTf</i>	16 Stitchers	17	18 Art Social Tennis Tai Chi	19 <i>Movie (Hatari)</i>	20 FYFB Working Bee Tennis Comp
21 Garden Work shop	22 <b>Recycle</b> Growing Group	23 Stitchers Book Group	24	25 Art	26	27 Market Tennis Comp <b>Family Day</b>
28	29	30 Stitchers				

*Recycle* = reminder to put out your recycling bin

#### ART

Thursdays 1:30 PM – 4.30 PM SC3 - Bring your paints; discuss your art and share skills.

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

#### TAI CHI

Every Thursday in the School Term time at SC3

Hannah Sky 5965 2211

#### BOOK GROUP

4<sup>th</sup>Tuesday - 8.00 PM; 10 members – limited by library book resources. Lively discussions at SC3. New Members welcome

Kerin Comport 0411 265161

#### CLAMBERERS

Last Sunday (April to November). Since 1993, the walking group has walked over local tracks & explored the flora and fauna of the Valley and surrounding areas. Walks are announced at the SC3 Market before hand

Robyn Allan 0409 139371 [eda@wideband.net.au](mailto:eda@wideband.net.au)

#### FRIENDS OF YARRA FLATS BILLABONGS

Development of wetlands adjacent to Yarra Glen.

Working Bees third Saturday of every second month starting at 12 noon

Kevin Heeley 9730 1704 [kevinheeley@bigpond.com](mailto:kevinheeley@bigpond.com)

<http://yarrafatbsbillabongs.melbournewater.com.au>

#### GARDEN

Newsletter, outings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 60 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 9.30 am at SC3– all welcome.

Deb Edwards 97301479

#### HEWI (Healesville Environment Watch Inc)

Environmental issues at Healesville Living and Learning Centre, 1 Badger Creek Road.

Maureen Bond 5962 1224 [hewisec@bigpond.com](mailto:hewisec@bigpond.com)

#### HISTORY

The Y.G. & D.H.S. meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at 1:30 pm Memorial Hall:

Mrs. Brenda Cawte 9730 1801

<http://www.yarraglenhistorical.websyle.com.au>

#### LANDCARE GROUP

Ongoing projects and a great opportunity to obtain information, advice and possibly funding about tackling Landcare issues of significance to YOU!

Sandra Turnley 9730 1550

**SC3 = Steels Creek Community Centre,  
699 Steels Creek Road Steels Creek**

MAY 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Art Social Tennis	3	4 Tennis Comp
5	6 <b>Recycle</b> Women's Group	7 Stitchers	8	9 Art Tai Chi Social Tennis	10	11 Market Book Launch Tennis Comp
12 YG&DHS	13	14 Stitchers Garden Outing	15	16 Art Tai Chi Social Tennis	17 <i>Movie (Brassed Off)</i>	18 FYFB Working Bee Tennis Comp
19	20 <b>Recycle</b>	21 Stitchers Biggest Afternoon Tea	22	23 Art Tai Chi Social Tennis	24	25 Market Tennis Comp
26	27 Growing Group	28 Stitchers Book Group	29	30 SMB Art Tai Chi Social Tennis	31	

#### HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE

To arrange hire of the revamped Hall and/or any equipment please contact

Andrew Chapman 0412 280773

#### MARKET

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at SCCC, 10.00 AM Sharp! Community announcements, local fresh produce, preserves, baked goods. The Creek's best home made scones, coffee and tea at every market!

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

#### MOVIES

2<sup>nd</sup> or 3rd Friday each month – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic movies at SCCC. March through November.

Keith Montell 5965 2202

#### SMB (really just a coffee and a chat, football and opera and all in between)

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

Last Thursday 10.30 AM – 11.30 AM. Men's morning tea at Anita's Yarra Glen. The August meeting is at Point Pleasant

#### STITCHERS

Jane Calder 5965 2372 Nola Matthews 0412 199129

Every Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at SC3 Since 1993. 24 members, 12 regulars. Work shops plus, bring own work – knit, patch, embroider.

#### TENNIS

Alby Leckie 5965 2354, Ed Bartosh 9739 1879

Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 90 active and social members. Tuesdays 3:45PM - kids lessons; Thursdays 9.30 AM, Mums' tennis; Friday 10am - Ladies Coaching, Thursdays 7.30 PM\*, Social tennis. Saturdays 1 PM to 5 PM regular competitions. \*Night tennis under the lights.

<http://www.yarraglen.com/SCTC/>

#### WOMEN'S GROUP Evening Friendship Group

Lindy Montell 5965 2202

1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7.00 at JJ's in Yarra Glen. Come for company, conversation, food and coffee. You'll be made most welcome for a pleasant evening of food and chat.

#### YARRA GLEN TOWNSHIP GROUP

Meets the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 7-9pm – at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, see our web site for more information.  
<http://www.yarraglen.com/townshipgroup/> All are welcome.

Dean Putting 9730 1975

## Cross Creek 55

### Across

1. Delicate in colour and structure (8)
5. American big cat (4)
7. Indian dress (4)
8. Antique writing equipment (8)
9. Challenging wartime code (6)
12. Major Mitchell climbed & named this hill (7)
15. A sign of injury (7)
19. Pink soup (6)
21. Gem quality green mineral (8)
22. Colour of a duck? (4)
23. Locked out from prestigious American university? (4)
24. These sales may well drop with cooler weather (8)

### Down

1. Equinox festival once pagan, now Christian (6)
2. David's weapon of choice (5)
3. Small town near Mount Baw Baw (5)
4. Couple of TV Lads were this (6)
5. Might be on aged wood or bronze (6)
6. Not a good egg! (6)
10. Much used word for significant things (4)
11. Flaky component of granite (4)
12. One needed four and twenty blackbirds (3)
13. Glittering place to 'do your dough' (4)
14. Weighty church service? (4)
15. Bill much loved by Australian children (6)
16. Perfumed shrub named for a river nymph. (6)
17. Plural star sign (6)
18. Greeting of "Peace be with you"
19. Longest commonly used musical note (5)
20. Essential to a helicopter (5)

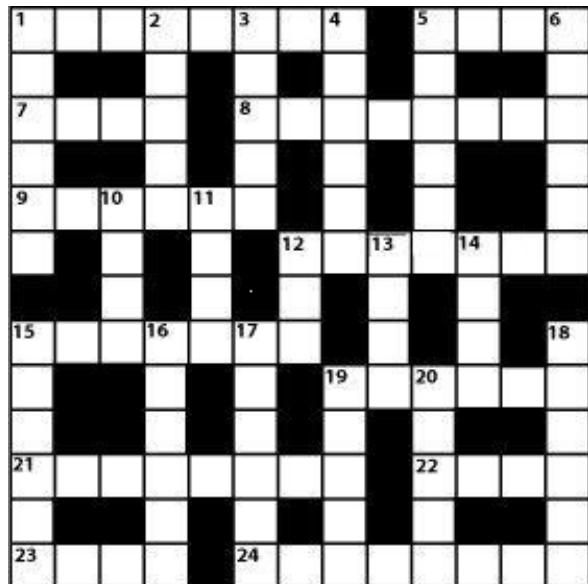
## Cross Creek 54 Answers

### Across

1. Fast 3. Avocado 8. Gutless 9. Trace 10. Thyme
11. Record 13. Nightwatchman 16. Forced 18. Audio
21. Owned 22. Neptune 23. Departed 24. Shut

### Down

1. Fighting 2. Satay 3. Austrian dance 4. Optic
5. Anagram 6. Over 7. Cement 12. Innocent
14. Grown up 15. Cramps !7. Cedar 19. Dough
20. Hold



180 Print / 270 Email / 13 Nations

The "Jolly Thing" is published by and for the greater Steels Creek Community Centre Inc, 699 Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek. Postal address: PO Box 291, Yarra Glen, Victoria 3775. Management Committee: Andrew Chapman, President; Keith Montell, Treasurer; Angie Lloyd Secretary, David Allan, Malcolm Calder, Vicki Stewart and John Houston, elected as members; with Jane Calder, Garden Club and Vicki Stewart, Tennis Club.

<http://www.steelscreek.org.au/>

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Circulation: Malcolm Calder 5965 2372.

[thejollything@steelscreek.org.au](mailto:thejollything@steelscreek.org.au)

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We gratefully acknowledge Peter England, for the support of the Steels Creek Community and *The Jolly Thing*.



*No worries!*

**9730-1611**

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**DEADLINE** for the next Jolly Thing is  
28 May 2013.

# Home Bushfire Advice Service

**Where can you get a free one - on - one individualised assessment & report on preparing your property?**

**From the CFA of course!**

This **FREE** service by a CFA qualified Fire Safety Officer enables you to get individualised advice on what you can do on your property to make it safer in preparing for the event of a bushfire.

7 key points are considered during the inspection:

- 1. Defendable Space**
- 2. Vegetation Management**
- 3. Water Supply**
- 4. Access**
- 5. House maintenance and improvements**
- 6. Maintenance Activities**
- 7. Awareness of personal capacity**



We would like to encourage you to take advantage of this service in preparation for the next and coming fire seasons **it is an excellent opportunity to have a personalised one on one discussion** about your home & property, how to improve its safety, and what your Fire Plan is and provide advice to suit.

The inspection takes approximately 1 hour and a written report is then provided.

**"But my place is a bit of a mess at the moment - I haven't done my normal summer preparations"**

This does not mean that the assessment is not worthwhile , it just means there may be things noted on the report that you generally would have already done. Most people find that the assessment picks up on many risks that they had not noticed.

**BOOK NOW**

1. Visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)
2. Contact **Nic Rodway** Eastern Metropolitan Region on **8739 4032** or [n.rodway@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:n.rodway@cfa.vic.gov.au)

If you have any questions regarding this service please contact Nic Rodway on 8739 4032.

